

CARDINAL'S OFFICE

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December 22, 2010

His Eminence, Stanislaw Cardinal Rylko
President, Pontifical Council for the Laity
Piazza S. Calisto, 16
00153 Roma, ITALY

Your Eminence:

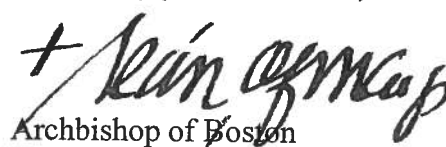
I am writing this letter to endorse the Community of Sacramental Encouragement ("CSE") as an international private association of the faithful. I have approved the statutes of CSE and established it as a private juridic person in the Archdiocese of Boston (a copy of this decree and of the statutes are enclosed).

I am very pleased with CSE's wonderful accomplishments on behalf of the Church and her Sacraments that it performs daily. The members are enthusiastic about the mission of the Church and dedicate themselves daily to the evangelization of Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The members and the governance of CSE are wholly committed to ensuring the availability as well as the participation in the Sacraments of the Church, and most especially the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith and our Christian life.

CSE has answered the call of the Holy Father to use the newest forms of communication for evangelization. They have reached out to each other as fellow members of CSE using all of the most modern forms of communication, but also have used such communication to act as heralds announcing the Good News of the Lord all over the world. It is for these reasons that I endorse and support the material and spiritual endeavors of CSE and would ask that Your Eminence consider them for status as an international private association of the faithful. Should Your Eminence see fit to do this, I would also ask that they be included in the *Directory of International Associations of the Faithful*.

With sincere respect and every best wish to Your Eminence, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Boston

Decree Erecting a Private Association

In nomine Domini. Amen.

Having reviewed the *Statutes of the Community of Sacramental Encouragement*, also publicly known as MassTimes, in accord with the norms of canon law;

Having been informed by the Assistant to the Moderator of the Curia for Canonical Affairs and the General Counsel of the Archdiocese of Boston that the necessary consultations have occurred;

I hereby grant my approval to the *Statutes of the Community of Sacramental Encouragement*, in accord with cann. 299 §3 and 322 §1;

Further, I hereby erect the Community of Sacramental Encouragement as a private association of the Christian faithful in the Archdiocese of Boston, with private juridic personality (cf. cann. 312 §1,3°; 322).

The effective date of these actions is January 1, 2011.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston in Braintree, Massachusetts on this 22nd day of December 2010.


Archbishop of Boston


Chancellor

Draft 11/7/10

**COMMUNITY OF SACRAMENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT
(ALSO KNOWN TO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AS MASS
TIMES)**

STATUTES

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ's own words at the Last Supper, "Do this in memory of Me," echo in the hearts of the members of the Community of Sacramental Encouragement (CSE), a private association of the faithful, known via the Internet as MassTimes, inspiring them to bring others to the Holy Eucharistic Table. Mindful that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, CSE, as an international group of lay faithful, is especially devoted to encouraging Catholics to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Serving the Catholic Church in a "digital age", an international Catholic association evangelizes with modern technology, especially the Internet, helping people around the world to locate their nearest Catholic church, to find the schedule for the Celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to find a nearby chapel for Eucharistic Adoration and other important information about their nearest Catholic church, all through the website www.MassTimes.org.

CSE strives to always work with the latest internet technology so as to make information accessible through iPhones, androids and other hand-held devices. As an international association, CSE makes an effort to be accessible in over ten languages. Recognizing the Church's call to pray and work for vocations, CSE also offers on the website free vocation advertisements for the priesthood and religious life. Also included in the charism of CSE, is the promotion of collaboration and the sharing of information. Therefore, CSE also includes the Online Catholic Church Directory in which the members work on a common Catholic Church database to be at the service of the Church.

Following the voice of the Holy Spirit, CSE members feel impelled to follow Christ more closely and carry his cross of service in the work of developing, updating and promoting MassTimes and the Online Catholic Directory. In a spirit of hospitality and reverence for the connectedness of all creation that is facilitated through the Internet, CSE members respond to local and global needs by bringing to the mission their professional skills, talents and material resources.

PREAMBLE

In today's "digital age" where millions of people everyday search for directions and information online, CSE, as a Catholic international association of laity, contributes important work in evangelization. CSE Members live a contemporary charism that witnesses to the world a great love for the Church and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

CSE Members give witness to their Faith through the modern means of the internet. The association members evangelize through the internet by helping Catholics around the world find their nearest Catholic church, or the schedule for the Celebration of the Eucharist, or a nearby chapel for Eucharistic Adoration, as well as other important information about their closest Catholic church—all through the website www.MassTimes.org. The lay members do their apostolic work by contacting the archdioceses and dioceses of the world (about 2,400+) asking them to promote www.MassTimes.org to their parishes, and about 117,000 parishes asking them to tell their parishioners how to locate a, place and time for Mass when traveling.

An essential element of the charism of the CSE Members is collaboration. The CSE Members form a team all over the world who work together to promote and develop CSE initiatives. Over the past fifteen years CSE, with the assistance of its members, has worked with over 1,000 volunteers. Some of these volunteers and members offer to keep the church data/times current. Two volunteers, for example, personally visited every one of the 400 churches in New York City and then emailed Mr. Robert Hummel (Founder) at CSE each of the church's schedules.

The charismatic element of collaboration within CSE manifests itself best in the form of volunteers and members. Those who offer technical help range from database design, to web site development to management solutions.

Every week CSE has at least ten new volunteers, also called supporters, who help others get to Mass; some of these volunteers then become Members of CSE by their expressed commitment as a member. Members communicate via a quarterly email Newsletter keeping fellow members abreast of Association news and apostolate updates. Members and board members meet annually at Association meetings.

Mass Times website has on average 10 million visitors to the site each year. In keeping with the CSE charism, that promotes collaboration and sharing of information, CSE also includes members that work on creating a common Church database to be at the service of the dioceses and CSE. This database is the Online Catholic Church Directory (OCCD.)

ECCLESIALITY AND CHARISM OF ITS MEMBERSHIP

It is always from the perspective of the Church's communion and mission, and not in opposition to the freedom to associate, that one understands the necessity of having *clear and definite criteria for discerning and recognizing* such lay groups, also called "Criteria of Ecclesiality". CSE, in keeping with all associations of the faithful, is an instrument leading to holiness in the Church, through fostering and promoting "a more intimate unity between the everyday life of its members and their faith".

MassTimes was created and has grown as a modern website ministry for a variety of individuals and groups--laity, parishes and diocesan staff--who are dedicated to helping Catholics get to Mass, Eucharistic adoration, confession and other devotions during their busy everyday life. Those who belong to the organization are essentially committed to provide means to help Catholics get to their local parish or a parish while traveling, thus leading people to the "source and summit of our faith," namely, the Eucharist celebrated, received and venerated.

While our mission statement does not specifically indicate the reason that led to the creation and operation of CSE, its core supporters and its founder's primary focus was to help Catholics find daily Mass and Adoration. The thousands of supporters of CSE and www.MassTimes.org have been invaluable to CSE's growth. It has been the Holy Spirit that implants the charism in the supporters so that they can help others who seek the Eucharist. Allowing others to carry the cross of this ministry is a major reason why it has been so blessed.

CSE is a modern organization, planted firmly into the virtual world of web communications, using the language proper to the new forms of communication, social networking and evangelization. CSE provides the tools for Catholics to locate churches and times of worship. CSE and specifically www.MassTimes.org, by connecting people to their local parishes, or a parish while traveling, is leading people to the Church and its riches—the Eucharist, the place where the faith is proclaimed. The members of CSE are committed to work in union with the Church's Magisterium.

CSE was started with the help of each diocese supplying its churches and worship times, with the promise of only including churches listed in the Official Catholic Directory of the United States. CSE continues to add only churches approved by the dioceses. CSE's primary contact with the Church is through its dioceses and CSE uses electronic mail ("email") to send quarterly reports to each archdiocese/diocese.

CSE has a charism that drives its members and visitors to the desire to go to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other worships. The most frequent visitors are those that go to daily Mass, Adoration and Confession. The steady growth of visitors to the MassTimes web site reflects the zeal of its supporters, and their effectiveness in spreading the message of how to get Catholics to church.

MassTimes has had over 150 million church lookups and over 75 million visitors in the past 15 years. It provides a valuable service to the laity and the Church. This speaks of the members' commitment to this form of evangelization: using the internet to help Catholics get to the sacraments.

CSE participates in the mission of the Church by evangelizing and promoting the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to all Catholics. Its method of operation is to involve Church members (parishioners, parishes, even dioceses and the Vatican) in the following ways:

Practicing Catholics comprise over 6,000 supporters of CSE who take part in a variety of ways: through prayers, by adding, updating and deleting church data (in order to keep the website current), by providing design and programming resources, and/or by being financial donors.

Parishes promote www.MassTimes.org to their parishioners. Over 8,000 parishes use the internet update program to keep their church data current. Over 4,000 parishes link directly to www.Masstimes.org.

Archdioceses/Dioceses promote www.MassTimes.org to their parishes, and in turn parish bulletins inform the parishioners. This has resulted in 75 million Catholic visitors (in fifteen years) doing 150 million lookups.

The USCCB has a partnership agreement to promote www.MassTimes.org and it links its website directly to www.MassTimes.org. The *Council for Social Communication* at the Vatican encourages the world wide operation of [MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org).

COMMUNITY OF SACRAMENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT

STATUTES

Name and Purpose

Article 1. The name of this private association of Christian faithful is “Community of Sacramental Encouragement”. It may also be referred to as MassTimes.

Article 2. The purpose of the association is to foster public worship and to evangelize by publishing updated times, places and dates of established Masses, Sacraments and other devotions so that Catholics, wherever situated, will be able to attend public worship and to receive the Sacraments.

The Seat

Article 3. The primary offices of CSE shall be 91 Surfside Road, Scituate, MA 02066, USA.

Annual Meeting

Article 4. Unless otherwise determined by the Moderator, the annual meeting is held in Baltimore, Maryland, and is scheduled as to coincide with the annual meeting of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Governance

Article 5. The election of Directors shall be held at the annual meeting of members.

Article 6. CSE shall be governed by a board, consisting of five (5) individuals. Each of the three (3) trustees of Mass Times Trust shall serve as *ex officio* members of the board and two (2) members will be elected by the members from the members (the “Directors”).

Article 7. On an annual basis, in a separate election, one of the Directors shall be elected as the Moderator of CSE.

- Article 8. For the validity of the elections, a quorum must be present at the annual meeting. A quorum shall be at least ten (10) members either present in person or voting by written proxy filed with the Moderator. Elections shall be held in accord with the norm of The Code of Canon Law.
- Article 9. The Directors and the Moderator hold their positions for a period of six (6) years.
- Article 10. The Directors shall meet quarterly to discuss the more important issues of CSE. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the Directors or by the Moderator. Directors may participate in the meeting in person or by telephone or video conferencing whereby each participant can speak and be heard by the other participants.
- Article 11. The duties of the Moderator shall include the following:
- A. Accepting new members;
 - B. Representing CSE to the ecclesiastical authorities;
 - C. Overseeing and managing the temporal goods of CSE and providing an annual report to the Directors and members;
 - D. Notifying dismissed members in accord with Article 7;
 - E. Hiring and firing any staff of CSE, after consultation with the other Directors; and
 - F. Supervising the day-to-day operations of CSE for and on behalf of the members and in their name.
- Article 12. Due to its international nature, and due to the possibilities presented by modern technology, CSE shall use electronic and “virtual” means of communication both for its communication with its members and for communication among its Directors.
- Article 13. Should, because of death, illness, resignation or other reasons, one of the Director positions or Moderator position becomes vacant, nominees shall be gathered from the members within thirty (30) days of such vacancy. The Moderator or a majority of the remaining Directors shall distribute to the Directors the names of the nominees by

email and a special election shall be held by the Directors by email ballots. The remaining Directors shall be responsible, with an impartial witness, for tallying the votes. A majority of votes cast for a nominee shall constitute the winner of the election. If the winner of the election accepts his or her election, such person shall be an interim director until the next annual meeting, at which time, elections shall be held in accord with Articles 6-8. If there is no majority, a runoff election by email ballot of the two top vote getters shall be held. Should the winner of this runoff not accept election, the second vote getter is elected, subject to his or her acceptance.

- Article 14. Membership is open to baptized persons, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, who have completed the Sacraments of initiation and who are currently practicing Catholics in good standing. In addition, prospective members must have read these statutes; provide their e-mail address; accept quarterly reports of the progress of CSE; and agree to provide operational support to the ministry.
- Article 15. Members should keep the CSE in their daily prayers and should help others to live and grow in their spiritual life by one or more of the following ways: where and when possible, provide financial support to CSE; distribute information about CSE to acquaintances and associates of the member; donate their talent, such as computer programming or web site design; provide known times/dates/places of worship and Sacraments; advise the Association of any known changes to times/dates/places of worship and Sacraments.
- Article 16. Members are free to resign their membership at any time and should inform the Moderator of this intention in writing or by email.
- Article 17. If it is determined by a majority of Directors that a member is consistently not able to comply with the requirements of membership, that member will be notified of the termination of his or her membership.

Manner of Acting

- Article 18. Meetings of the members shall take place monthly via webcast. Notice of the meetings will be given by email from the Moderator or another Director.
- Article 19. The members of CSE should strive at all times to encourage the Christian faithful to participate in the Sacraments of the Church, but most especially, to participate in the Eucharist, on a daily basis if possible.
- Article 20. In order to encourage participation in the Sacraments of the Church, members of CSE should encourage all Catholics through the most modern technology available to them. They should assist the Directors in making the places of worship and the times of worship available to the whole Church throughout the world.
- Article 21. Members are encouraged to stay in frequent contact with each other through email, telephone, webcast or any other means of modern technology.

Review and Amendment of Statutes

- Article 22. CSE shall seek a review of its Statutes from the diocesan bishop of its Seat as well as by the Holy See to seek status as an international private association of the faithful.
- Article 23. Once reviewed, the Statutes shall always be available to ecclesiastical review. Any amendments must also be reviewed by ecclesiastical authorities.
- Article 24. Amendments to the Statutes can be proposed by any Director, and must receive unanimous approval of the Directors and the approval of the diocesan bishop of its seat. The amendments then must receive a majority vote from the quorum of members at the annual meeting for it to be an approved amendment. As soon as it has received approval from the members it will be added to the statutes as dated addendums and then transmitted to the appropriate ecclesiastical authority for review.
- Article 25. The Code of Canon Law and other universal law of the Roman Catholic Church will govern those areas and issues not regulated by these Statutes.

Dissolution

Article 26. In order for CSE to dissolve or cease to exist, a unanimous vote of the Directors is required.

Article 27. CSE may also be dissolved by the Holy See or by the diocesan bishop of its Seat.

Article 28. Without prejudice to the acquired rights and the intentions of the donors, upon dissolution, the temporal goods of CSE shall revert to the diocese of the Seat of CSE at the time of such dissolution.

Submitted this 19th day of December 2010, at 91 Surfside Road, Scituate, MA 02066, USA by:

Robert Hummel

Moderator of CSE

Approved:

+ [Signature]

Bishop of CSE's Seat

Date: 22 / XII / 2010